## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 FDRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 //090 W

-----151532Z 078420 /46

R 151345Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0066

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL GABORONE 1334

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, S EF, BC, SF, RH, WA

SUBJECT: INCREASED CONTACTS WITH NATIONALIST LEADERS IN BOTSWANA

- 1. IN JUNE 8 COVERSATION WITH ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT, CHARLES TIBONE, DCM BROUGHT DISCUSSION AROUND TO USG DESIRE FOR MORE CONTACTS WITH NATIONALIST LEADERS, INCLUDING THOSE REPRESENTING DISPARATE REFUGEE GROUPS IN BOTSWANA.
- 2. TIBONE WARMLY WELCOMED THE IDEA THAT EMBASSY DO EVEN MORE TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ZIMBABWEAN, NAMIBIAN AND SOUTH AFRICA NATIONALIST GROUPS. HE SAID THAT WHILE GOB UNDERSTOOD OUR DESIRE NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED AS SUPPORTING ANY PARTICULAR GROUP, OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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FORMER RELATIVE PAUCITY OF CONTACT HAD BEEN MISUNDER-STOOD BY THE NATIONALISTS AS OPPOSITION, OR AT BEST INDIFFERENCE TO THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE. TIBONE OFFERED TO BE OF ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN PUTTING US IN TOUCH WITH NATIONALIST REPS, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THEM ALL, OR THE EXACT ADDRESSES OF MANY. HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS DIFFICULTY OFTEN IN IDENTIFYING LEADERS, SINCE THE ONES IN BOTSWANA WERE NOT NECESSARILY VERY HIGH RANKING IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

3. I HAVE SENT TIBONE A LIST OF THE NATIONALIST LEADERS OF WHOM WE ARE AWARE, ASKING (AS HE HAD OFFERED) HIM TO UPDATE AND EXPAND IT WHERE POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: WE CONSIDER THIS FRANK AND ENTHUSIASTIC REVELATION OF GOB ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR CONTACTS WITH NATIONALISTS TO BE A VERY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT AND ANTICIPATE A RELATED MARKED INCREASE IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THESE GROUPS. END COMMENT.HOOVER

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## Message Attributes

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Subject: INCREASED CONTACTS WITH NATIONALIST LEADERS IN BOTSWANA

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